TIGER TIPS

RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Procedures

For investigators submitting proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF), the intent of this Tiger Tips article is to serve as a reminder of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) requirements and procedures.

NSF – Required Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training

For all proposals submitted to NSF:

- At the time of proposal submission, a proposing institution’s Authorized Organization Representative must certify that the institution has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.
- Training plans are not required to be included in proposals submitted to NSF. However, institutions have been advised that they are subject to review.
- NSF has modified its standard award conditions to clearly stipulate that institutions are responsible for verifying that undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research have received RCR training.

Auburn University – RCR Training Plan

All undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers conducting research on any projects funded by NSF must receive RCR training. The Principal Investigator (PI) will identify those individuals who are required to complete RCR training and ensure completion along with forwarding of training documentation to the appropriate Department Head(s). Department Heads will maintain training records and ensure that training requirements are being fulfilled. Training must be completed prior to an individual’s participation and payment on an NSF project.

AU RCR Training Implementation

In order to meet the RCR training requirements, Auburn University has contracted with the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) at the University of Miami to provide RCR training. CITI is a web-based training program with content developed by a national consortium. The CITI RCR program will ensure appropriate training and documentation related to RCR requirements. To register and/or log onto the CITI web site, follow the instructions provided on the Research Compliance Education and Training web site.

The attached flow-chart provides a graphical representation of AU’s RCR Process in relation to NSF funding. NOTE: AU encourages, but does not require, all investigators to complete the CITI RCR Training Module.
NSF RCR Training Process

Proposal Submission with Institutional Certification of RCR Plan

PI Identifies & Notifies Students and Postdocs of RCR Training Requirement

CITI RCR Training Completed prior to Participation & Payment on NSF Projects

PI Ensures CITI RCR Training Completion & Sends Certificate to Dept. Head(s)

Dept. Head(s) Maintain CITI Training Records & Ensure RCR Requirements are Fulfilled

Proposal

Training

Verify